India's request to Pakistan for trade Facilities

*237. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have recently urged Pakistan to extend to it all those facilities which are being extended by the latter to other countries in the matter of trade; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is the response of Pakistan Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the official talks held in Islamabad from 8—10 January, 1986, both sides reafirmed that their objective was to conduct trade in conformity with the commitments, obligations and safeguards under the GATT.

Establishment of Islamic common market

*238. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:
SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported talks between various Islamic countries for the establishment of an Islamic Common Market;

(b) if so, what is Government's assessment about the likely establishment of such a common market and the impact thereof on India's foreign trade; and

(c) whether, in view of the existence of a European Market, and the likely establishment of an Islamic Common Market, Government are also considering the question of participating in such a common market; if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (c) There are some newspaper reports regarding the idea of establishing an Islamic Common Market. The impact of such an organisation coming into being can be assessed only in future depending upon how such an organisation evolves.

Amendment of Trade Unions Act

*239. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Indian Trade Unions Act; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposals for amendment have not been finalised.

Evasion of Excise duty by a computer Manufacturer

*240. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Excise Department has issued a notice to a leading computer manufacturer for alleged evasion of duty to the tune of Rs. 3.72 crores;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the said computer manufacturer has underinvoiced and lowered assessable value; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.